



The **CALVERT COURIER**

SUMMER 2008

Serving California's Forty-Fourth District

Dear Friends,

The topic on everyone's mind right now is the incredibly high price of gasoline which has averaged as much as \$4.60 per gallon in our area. The dramatic rise in the price of gasoline is largely a result of world-wide supply constraints and increased demand. High oil prices also reflect a weak dollar, which we need to strengthen. Currently, the price of oil makes up more than 70% of the cost of a gallon of gasoline. While modest efforts can and are being made to curb the demand for oil and gasoline here in the U.S., our efforts are being negated by other countries. India and China have increased the demand for oil which is fueling their red hot economies. Therefore, the most meaningful step we can take to decrease prices is to increase oil supplies here domestically through enhanced exploration of our energy resources.

Estimates show that offshore exploration could yield **86 billion barrels of oil**, not to mention vast quantities of natural gas. Over the past few decades, advances in exploration technology and increased regulatory precautions have made it possible to conduct offshore exploration that is out of sight, protects the environment, and prevents oil spills. In fact, over the past 20 years with mandatory automatic safety shut-off valves on oil and gas rig equipment, less than .001 percent of the oil produced in U.S. state and federal waters has been spilled. On the next page of this newsletter you can read about my plan to develop offshore resources in a way that respects states rights, protects the environment and grows domestic supply of oil.

Another area that has proven reserves of oil is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. In 1980, the Congress and President Carter created the nearly 20 million acre ANWR, but set aside 1.5 million acres of ANWR's northern coastal plain for the purpose of future energy exploration and development. This parcel is known as the "1002" area and according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) the mean estimate of technically recoverable oil in ANWR is **10.4 billion barrels**—all of which is now economically recoverable. Daily oil production from ANWR could equal as much as one million barrels of oil per day, which is equivalent to the current daily imports to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia. Energy exploration would be limited to just 2,000 acres of ANWR's "1002" area, which is equivalent to 0.01% of ANWR's total acreage (which is the equivalent of a postage stamp on a football field).

I believe U.S. energy policy should embrace all avenues to reduce our dependence on oil. In the long term it means developing alternative sources such as hydrogen fuel cell technology, solar and wind technology in combination with conservation efforts. The U.S. must reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil, for economic and national security reasons. Decreasing oil imports will improve the U.S. trade deficit and reduce the need to rely on undemocratic countries in unstable regions. Additionally, every dollar spent on domestically produced oil goes into the American economy—creating jobs, growth, and tax generation, which is preferable to having foreign countries reap these benefits.

Sincerely,

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



Support the Troops

www.americasupportsyou.mil

P.S. Please sign up for urgent updates via email through my website at www.calvert.house.gov.

Calvert – Doing MORE To Help Lower Gas Prices

On July 17, 2008, Rep. Calvert introduced the Maximize Offshore Resource Exploration Act, or the **MORE** Act. The MORE Act, H.R. 6529, removes the existing restrictions on offshore leases for oil and natural gas exploration and production for any area of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The bill maintains a prohibition on federal leases within 25 miles of a state's coastline, which is within the visible horizon, unless a state elects to authorize such leases. The federal government would conduct leases for exploration beyond 25 miles.

The MORE Act makes significant changes to the distribution of OCS royalties from oil and natural gas leases. For oil and natural gas leases beyond 25 miles of the coastline, my bill distributes 75% of the royalties to the producing states and the remaining 25% to the U.S. Treasury. If states elect to allow exploration and production within 25 miles of their coastline, then their share of the royalties would increase to 90%.

"American families need relief now. The MORE Act will increase oil and natural gas supplies by removing existing restrictions on offshore energy exploration and production in the Outer Continental Shelf. More oil production will increase domestic oil supplies and relieve the upward pressures on oil prices."

–REP. KEN CALVERT



REP. CALVERT speaks at the "Good Morning Riverside" event hosted by the Riverside Chamber of Commerce to discuss the legislative outlook for 2008.

Working To Decrease Your Drive Time

On January 23, 2008 Rep. Calvert introduced the ON TIME Act, H.R. 5102. The bill imposes a freight fee (.075% capped at \$500) on the value of goods imported and exported at every port of entry in the U.S. The revenue from the fee—every dollar collected—would be returned to the areas extending from the port of entry impacted by goods movement. The corridors would include routes up to 300 miles from points of entry. Corridors will be defined by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department of Commerce to pinpoint the routes taken by goods as they leave ports, airports, or border crossings.

Too often, only the immediate areas around a port receive substantial transportation dollars, when in fact the trucks and rail cars that leave the ports choke traffic and impact commuters and businesses far beyond the port complexes, as is the case in Riverside and Orange Counties. A state's transportation department will be required to work in conjunction with local governments and transportation planning agencies and to take input from industry to select these projects. For more on the ONTIME Act, visit www.calvert.house.gov.

"As individuals traveling on our nation's transportation system, we want to spend less time traveling and more time living. Concurrently, businesses want to see an improved transportation system so that their cost of doing business is reduced."

–REP. CALVERT

UPDATE: Rep. Calvert testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the ON TIME Act on June 10, 2008. The testimony and the bill was well received. The next step will be passage out of committee and consideration of the measure on the House floor and a final vote.

Rep. Calvert Catalyst For House Passed Extension Of E-Verify

On June 24, 2008, Rep. Calvert introduced an amendment to the Homeland Security Appropriations bill that would extend the authority for the E-Verify program, the only tool available to employers to check the work status of newly hired employees, for ten years. The Majority voted against the amendment but it was a catalyst for the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over E-Verify, to provide assurance that the Committee would pass an extension and move it to the floor before the August recess. On July 30, 2008, H.R. 6633, which extends E-Verify for five years passed the House with the support of Rep. Calvert. E-Verify is set to expire November 30, 2008. Rep. Calvert was the original author of the bill that created E-Verify in 1996. Over the last 11 years, E-Verify has evolved from a humble five state pilot program to a nationwide voluntary program being used by over 70,000 employers. The States of Mississippi and Arizona recently made E-Verify mandatory for all employers.

E-Verify is 99.5% accurate and 94.2% of checks to the system receive an instant "green light" to work. For individuals who receive a tentative non-confirmation, they have eight business days to contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). DHS has also implemented the Photo Tool program for non-citizens (legal residents authorized to work in the U.S.) which allows employers to check the photo presented on the Employment Authorization Document with the photo in the DHS database.

"As the State of Arizona has demonstrated, E-Verify prevents individuals here illegally from obtaining work and it solves the problem of deportation since most people choose to self deport when they are unable to find a job. If we are truly to control our borders Congress must enact mandatory employment verification and cut off the job magnet that draws people here illegally."

—REP. KEN CALVERT

Rep. Calvert is also the author of a bill, H.R. 19, which would make E-Verify mandatory for all employers in the U.S.



REP. CALVERT meets with Marines at Camp Pendleton to discuss ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and thank them for their service.

Rep. Calvert Speaks At Riverside National Cemetery On Memorial Day

"Memorial Day is a sacred day for our country. Today we reaffirm a solemn promise made to those who laid down their lives for our country, and their families, that they have not been forgotten. Today is a testament of our gratitude and reverence of all those who have fought and died for our country - from the American Revolution to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many of us wonder if the life we live has a higher meaning. All the young men and women who have died for our country, gave their lives for a purpose larger than themselves and formed bonds that transcend death. Their memories and sacrifices are etched into the history of our great nation and generations to come will marvel at their bravery.

Still, as we stand here on this beautiful day, it is hard not to wish that they were here with us. We will never know how the stories of their lives may have ended had they lived to an old age. As the days pass, let us always remember what they gave up so that we may be here today.

When we hear our National Anthem, let us think of them and say a prayer of thanks that there are such men and women in this world. And that they lived as Americans."

— REP. CALVERT (Speech at Riverside National Cemetery, 05-26-08)

UPDATE: Contract Awarded To Build Fence At Smugglers Gulch

For years Rep. Calvert has worked to fill-in and fortify the three and a half mile stretch of land known as "Smugglers Gulch." Smugglers Gulch is located about 15 miles south of San Diego at the border of the United States and Mexico. It is a popular area for illegal crossings and drug smuggling because of the lax border protection. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently awarded a \$48.5 million contract to Kiewit, a private construction and mining company, to construct two miles of border fence and culverts and to place 2,000,000 cubic yards of fill at Smugglers Gulch. The awarding of the contract is a victory for those who value national security above unreasonable environmental concerns. This construction will complete a critical stretch of border fencing from the Pacific Ocean along the border between the U.S. and Tijuana.



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M.C.

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ALERT! Did You Know You Can Register to Vote Up to 15 Days Before An Election?

NEXT ELECTION: November 4, 2008 General Election

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS OCTOBER 20, 2008

Where do I obtain a form to register? Your local Post Office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles, city and county offices, 800-773-VOTE or www.voteinfo.net. Mail your form to register to vote! The postage is pre-paid. Just drop it in any mailbox. Visit the appropriate website below to register to vote in your county:

Riverside County

www.election.co.riverside.ca.us or (951) 486-7200

Orange County

www.ocvote.com or (714) 567-7600



REP. CALVERT meets with seniors at the San Clemente Senior Center to discuss Medicare and Social Security.

A Simple Philosophy – Keep Taxes Low

The U.S. economy has struggled in recent months and California was hit hard by the housing crisis. The most helpful action Congress could take for small business owners and families would be to make the tax cuts from 2001 and 2003 permanent. Congressman Calvert has consistently supported any effort to reduce taxes on both individuals and businesses and he has received high ratings from groups such as Americans for Tax Reform.

"If employers and individuals are unsure of their future tax burden, they will adopt restrictive investment and growth practices. Our job in Congress is to foster economic growth. Providing certainty in the tax code is one of the simplest, yet most important, ways we can help families and businesses."

– REP. KEN CALVERT

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